

IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

The International Sunday School Lesson for June 18 is "The Downfall of Samaria." II Kings 17:1-18.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

One of the fascinating subjects in connection with Old Testament history, and one which many persons have made a hobby, is that of the fate of the ten northern tribes of Israel, who were carried into captivity by Assyria, and thenceforth disappear from the Bible record. The mystery has been the theme of many books, and of endless discussion. Some persons have intense convictions upon it, and this present article will doubtless call out hostile rejoinders. One company of persons hold that the Chinese are the lost Ten Tribes, while others say that the North American Indians are the descendants of the ancient Hebrew captives; a still larger body of advocates claim that the Anglo-Saxon race can boast this Scriptural origin. There are theories galore, for the subject is an alluring one. Today the whole Sunday School world will study the tragic episode that gives rise to all the speculations, the downfall of Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and the carrying into captivity of the people by the Assyrians. The awful end many times foretold, had come at last.

The romancers have long had their way with this subject. No speculation has been too wild to have adherents. A little less imaginativeness, and a little more attention to the records of history and geography in the case, clears up the whole subject, removing it out of the realm of unreality, but detracting not one whit from its interest. The very chapter from which this lesson is taken plainly says, "So Israel was carried away out of their own land to Assyria, unto this day." In other words, the Ten Tribes were never lost; they were taken to Assyria, where they remain to this day. They ceased to have a national existence, but their descendants are still, despite the marvelous changes which history has brought to this region, within the confines of the territory where they were placed by Sargon II.

A "Find" Along the Tigris.

What is written briefly in the Old Testament upon this subject is fully corroborated by what is written at length in the latest books of travel. During my own travels in Mesopotamia, a few weeks ago, I was not a little surprised—having paid more attention to ingenious theories upon the fate of the "lost" Ten Tribes than I had to the simple record—to learn that the Jews are still scattered in communities over the region along the Tigris River that was once Assyria. It is not they who have been lost, but we. This ancient center of civilization has passed almost wholly out of the common knowledge of mankind. Assyria is not so well known as China. There are a thousand Europeans and Americans who travel on the Yangtze to every one that travels on the Tigris or Euphrates. Mesopotamia is not so well known as Uganda. So through all these centuries, in strange fulfillment of the Biblical record, these Jews have persisted in the place of their captivity, despite almost constant poverty and oppression, while the kingdoms of Assyria and Babylon and Persia and Greece and Rome and the Caliphate have thriven and waned and disappeared before their eyes. This persistence of the Jew is uncanny, though Scriptural.

In Bagdad, where there are from sixty to eighty thousand Jews, and several miserable synagogues, I had a conference with the chief Rabbi and his associates upon this subject of the "lost" tribes, and the existing Jews in Mesopotamia. They say that their people have always been here since the captivity, and that now there is no line of division between the captives from the northern and those from the southern Kingdoms. The entire twelve tribes are represented in Bagdad, as well as up and down the valley. There are also many Jews in Persia, the ancient land of the Medes, whither Sargon sent them. While they have been desperately poor and oppressed, better days seem to be coming, and with the opening of the region to settlement, they should find their opportunity. The revived life and consciousness of the Jewish nation will not pass them by.

A Great Journey.

The average newspaper reader, who sees incomprehensible dispatches concerning the new Bagdad Railway, never thinks that there is any connection between this and the story of the exile of Israel. Yet the present discussion is quite opportune for the Bible teacher who would make the Old Testament story vivid and real. The route of the Bagdad Railway, from Aleppo southward is, broadly speaking, the route of the great and miserable journey made by the Jewish captives. That this forced emigration was as definite and real as the daily runs of the limited trains between New York and Chicago, is an important point for the average boy and girl to fix in mind permanently. Shalmaneser IV. and Sargon II. are perfectly historical persons, and I myself have read the latter's boastful writings on the bricks of his now bur-

ied capital, which he thought was to endure forever. The person who would go further into the absorbing archaeological aspect of this story, and learn the marvelous historical confirmations of the Old Testament narrative, would better read Prof. Albert T. Clay's "Light on the Old Testament From Babel," published by the Sunday School Times Company. I read it while floating down the Tigris River, and found it illuminating.

To remove the haze and obscurity that envelops Assyria for the average person, it would be well to take a map and trace the probable route of the captives, acquiring on the way some knowledge of geography that will be useful in the interpretation of the day's news. Probably the Jordan was crossed somewhere near the Lake of Galilee—and how different this crossing from the one which their fathers had made, under Joshua, as the captives' consciences doubtless reminded them—and then, the mountain passes, they slowly journeyed up the valley through which now runs the Damascus-Homs railway. Through these smiling valleys, once their own inheritance, but now ravaged by invaders, they toiled afoot until they reached the ancient City of Aleppo, even then, as now, associated with the name of Abraham.

Indeed, these exiles were practically traversing, in an opposite direction, the journey which their great ancestors had made, to secure the inheritance which they had flung away. The way had many goals for their consciences. At Aleppo (now becoming, because of railway construction, the Chicago of Asia Minor), the Israelites and their captors turned due East, across the stony uplands of Mesopotamia. That is a rough road to travel to this day, on horseback or in stout-sprunged arabas; to these foot pilgrims, with their aged and ill and little children, it must have been torturing. But they were only prisoners, and entitled to scant consideration, getting such remnants of poor food as the cruel soldiers chose to give them. Soon they came in sight of the mountains of Kurdistan, where the soldiers redoubled their watchfulness, lest there be an attack from these fearless mountaineers, the Carduchi, as they were then called. Wells were infrequent and deep, and the company suffered from lack of water. All the land was so different from the ancient Hittite capital of Carchemish, still a ruin for the present-day traveler's observation. At the crossing, a slow, noisy process, as it is today, they were in fear of attack from the predatory Bedouin, then, as now, the enemy of all organized society. In another week, if the roads were not too muddy, or the snow on the ground, they were well past Haran, where Abraham had dwelt and where Isaac had got his wife—the very well of Rebecca being pointed out by the fathers—and in sight of the Tigris River. Perhaps here the host made a halt beneath the big cliffs of the fortified city that is today called Diarbekir. It may be that the inviolated and wounded soldiers, and the infirm among the Israelites, were here put aboard the goatskin rafts which were then, as they are now, the common means of conveyance down the Asshur or Nineveh, while the stronger ones marched down the river bank, over country that impressed them more by its difficulties than by its beauties. So at last they came to their undesired haven, and the miserable and heartsick Jews were scattered in slavery throughout Assyria, some being sent as far East as Media, the present Persia. And there they have remained since, a monument to the folly of a people that forsake the long-suffering Jehovah.

A Nation That Followed the Fashion.

Why this awful calamity? this wiping out of a nation's existence? The answer is more clearly written for us in the case of Israel of old than it is in the modern instances of Korea, Poland and Finland, blotted out before the eyes of the present generation. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had sinned away its day of grace. The patient and forbearing Jehovah, after warnings and entreaties, had been flouted too far. If the universe is not to be a realm of anarchy, the Lord must be just as well as merciful. There will always be a place for the policeman in society. Law must have means of vindicating itself. A God who was only merciful, and not just would be only the plaything of morals. God is always love, but the rod is sometimes a better expression of love than is a sweetmeat. The Israelites had passed the stage of reform; therefore their national existence was extinguished as a candle is snuffed out.

With poetic justice, the end came through one of the powerful nations that the foolish Jews had tried to emulate. The clearly recorded cause for the downfall of the kingdom of Israel was that it preferred to follow the fashion of nations, rather than the will of Jehovah, who had called the Children of Israel to be a peculiar people. They wanted to be like other people. They wanted to be different from other people. They could not perceive, any more than can thousands of equally foolish persons today, that it is better to live one's own life, and to work out one's own individuality, than to conform to the conventional standards. There are many wo-

men who would be beloved and useful homekeepers if they would stand true to their lot in life, who have made themselves into ridiculous imitations of "society" women. The first law of peace and success, for individuals and for nations, is to be loyal to one's own personality. There is no more absurd or despicable spectacle within the seven seas than the American who is an imitation Englishman. And no persons are farther from perceiving the national destiny of the United States of America than those young gentlemen in diplomatic service who are trying their utmost to have the nation conform to certain continental usages and standards. Let us keep true to our own type, and obedient to our heavenly vision. Failure to do so wrecked Israel and many another nation since.

The most modern of offenses was ancient Israel's ruin. It went mad after the prevailing fashion. It would rather be popular than right. The factory girl who saves her scanty wages, and stints her body and her brain, in order to buy a big hat and a hobble skirt, is no more absurd than was old Israel. Both were victims of the craze to conform to the day's mode. Now conformity is the law of the lower life, but individuality is the law of the higher. Certain insects take on the color of the vegetation about them, even as pretty souls blend into their background; but persons of force are able to withstand tendencies. The privilege of being "peculiar" in a noble sense, is one of the highest rights of man. That was the destiny which the Israelites missed. They chose the little gods of their neighbors, rather than the Great God of Abraham. The message of this national disaster, the carrying into captivity of Israel by Assyria, is the message of being true to one's highest powers and possibilities. There is some Assyria that menaces every young person in the world; and his danger is that he will succumb through fear of being thought "peculiar."

BRADSTREETS REPORT.

New York, June 9.—Bradstreets tomorrow will say:

Trade, crop and industrial conditions are of a variable character with the general appearance one of quiet, though evidences of good feeling hitherto noted are still to be met. Warm, bright weather continues to favor retail trade which also feels the stimulus of price reductions. Jobbing trade is of a between-seasons character and mid-year sales of spring and summer fabrics furnish the chief occupation. Really large business still feels the effects of crop uncertainty and tariff discussion. In leading industries changes are few. Price reductions have not brought out much new business in steel products, and a waiting policy still prevails. Orders for steel rails have improved. Short time is still the leading feature in the textile trades. Leather is quieter after the spell of buying induced by the recent advance in prices. Shoe manufacturing is not active, except for specialties. The building trades and material lines catering thereto are quiet.

Collections are a trifle better at some centers but are not better than fair in most sections.

Business failures in the United States for the week ending June 8 were 232 against 168 last week and 189 in the like week of 1910.

DUN'S WEEKLY COTTON REVIEW.

New York, June 9.—Weekly cotton review: Cotton advanced sharply for a time on hot, dry weather at the South coverings of shorts and bullish manipulation. Then came a setback on heavy and persistent liquidation of July attributed to leading New York and New Orleans bulls and their following. Also beneficial gains were reported in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama. Still on Friday prices advanced again on dry, hot weather in Texas and elsewhere. Liverpool's spot trade has continued still and at the South the demand for the actual cotton is said to have fallen off so noticeably that the dullness neutralizes the effect of a strong statistical situation. Moreover, many believe that despite the recent hot, dry weather the crop is doing well, that it needed a period of high temperatures after the cold weather of May and that dry weather has thus far done no widespread harm. The cotton goods trade, too, is still unsatisfactory. Curtailment continues. Speculation in futures has been as a rule on a small scale. It is largely a professional market, subject to manipulation, a market which disconcerts some of the most experienced members of the trade. On the other hand, if big bull operators have been throwing July overhead they are credited with buying October, December and January on a liberal scale. A well-known Texas operator who has been here for about two years, is understood to be very bullish on the new crop months at the prevailing discounts. There can be no certainty as to what the size of the crop is to be. The acreage is unprecedentedly large and the recent government report though favorable, merely recalls to bulls the fact that there has been in the past a falling off from the June condition by October of no less than 37 per cent. They add that a "bumper" crop is absolutely necessary to replenish the world's supplies and, failing that, prices must go very much higher. On Friday continued hot, dry weather and aggressive buying by operators who have been very successful this season in the old crop months caused a sharp advance despite the fact that the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama of late have had beneficial rains. Attention is fixed on Texas which is dry.

Like leaves on trees the race of man is found.

Now green in youth, now withering on the ground;

Another race the following spring supplies;

They fall successive and successive rise.

—Pope.

TOBACCO SALES ARE OFF

ONLY 157,778 IN MAY, 1911, AS AGAINST 1,300,893 POUNDS IN MAY, 1910, A DIFFERENCE OF 1,143,115 POUNDS.

Tobacco sales in North Carolina for May amounted to 157,778 pounds, the first hand sales being 144,223 pounds, while in May of 1910, the sales were 1,300,893 pounds, showing a decrease in the month's sale of 1,143,115 pounds.

The sales reported are from seven markets and in these the resales were 8,769, the sales by dealers, 4,786 pounds. The statistics gathered by the Department of Agriculture show that Winston-Salem led with total sales of 107,030 and that Reidsville was next, with 27,166 pounds. The sales were reported as follows:

Towns.	First Hand.	With Resales.
Winston-Salem ..	97,018	107,030
Reidsville ..	27,166	27,166
Durham ..	9,016	11,446
Madison ..	4,348	4,555
Stoneville ..	2,940	2,940
Mebane ..	2,038	2,038
Mount Airy ..	1,697	2,603
Totals ..	144,223	157,778

Total sales for May, 1910, 1,300,893.

Comparative Cotton Statement.

New York, June 9.—For the week ending June 9-10: Net receipts at all U. S. ports during week, 20,259; net receipts at all U. S. ports same week last year, 26,123; total receipts since September 1st, 8,393,852; total receipts to same date last year, 7,689,675; exports for the week, 35,614; exports for same week last year, 78,608; total exports since Sept. 1st, 7,191,561; total exports same date last year, 5,621,843; stock at all United States ports, 274,911; stock at all United States ports same time last year, 408,539; stock at all interior towns, 157,564; stock at all interior towns same time last year, 216,523; stock at Liverpool, 795,000; stock at Liverpool same time last year, 565,000; stock of American afloat for Great Britain, 57,000; stock of American afloat for Great Britain same time last year, 63,000.

Cotton Receipts.

New York, June 9.—The following are the total net receipts of cotton at all ports since September 1st:

Galveston, 2,728,655; New Orleans, 1,541,413; Mobile, 249,498; Savannah, 1,406,095; Charleston, 283,601; Wilmington, 409,187; Norfolk, 557,571; Baltimore, 103,991; New York, 14,041; Boston, 37,760; Newport News, 1,923; Philadelphia, 365; San Francisco, 84,055; Brunswick, 215,913; Port Townsend, 56,396; Pensacola, 121,957; Portland, Ore., 500; Port Arthur and Sabine Pass, 206,719; Jacksonville, 24,919; Eagle Pass, Tex., 50; El Paso, Tex., 55; Laredo, Tex., 400; Georgetown, 1,379; Gulfport, 34,239; Texas City, 308,820; minor ports, 4,350; total, 8,393,852.

COTTON MOVEMENT.

New York, June 9.—The following statistics on the movement of cotton for the week ending Friday, June 9, were compiled by the New York Cotton Exchange:

Weekly Movement—Port receipts, 20,200 this year, 41,701 last year; overland to mills and Canada, 5,680 this year, 9,622 last year; Southern mill takings (estimated), 20,000 this year, 16,000 last year; gain of stock at interior towns, 16,210 this year, 17,297 last year; brought into sight for the week, 29,579 this year, 44,026 last year.

Total Crop Movement—Port receipts, 8,406,561 this year, 7,107,239 last year; overland to mills and Canada, 917,428 this year, 788,715 last year; Southern mill takings (estimated), 2,075,000 this year; 2,060,000 last year; stock at interior towns in excess of September 1st, 103,932 this year, 118,410 last year; brought into sight thus far for season, 11,502,921 this year; 10,674,364 last year.

Western Interior Cotton Towns.

	New York, June 9.	Tone.	Mid. Receipts.
Atlanta ..	Steady	15 1/2	83
Athens ..	Steady	15 1/2	25
Charlotte ..	Steady	15 1/2	18
Columbia ..	Steady	15 1/2	1,106
Columbus, Ga. ..	Quiet	15	15
Columbus, Miss. ..	Quiet	15	19
Enfauila ..	Quiet	15	7
Greenville ..	Quiet	15	17
Helena ..	Quiet	15	25
Little Rock ..	Quiet	15	247
Meridian ..	Quiet	15	40
Montgomery ..	Quiet	15 1/2	12
Nashville ..	Quiet	15 1/2	...
Raleigh ..	Steady	15 1/2	26
Rome ..	Steady	15 1/2	25
Selma ..	Steady	15 1/2	400
Shreveport ..	Quiet	14 11-16	46
Vicksburg ..	Quiet	15	18
Yazoo City ..	Quiet	15	7

HESTER'S WORLD'S VISIBLE SUPPLY STATEMENT

New Orleans, June 9.—Secretary Hester's statement of the world's visible supply of cotton issued today shows the total visible to be 2,813,722 against 2,985,213 last week and 2,834,541 last year.

The total of American cotton is 1,671,722 against 1,810,217 last week and 1,707,541 last year, and of all other kinds including Egypt, Brazil, India, 1,142,000 against 1,175,000 last week and 1,127,000 last year.

Of the world's visible supply of cotton there is now afloat and held in Great Britain and Continental Europe 1,686,000 against 1,416,000 last year and in Egypt 118,000 against 89,000 last year; in India 597,000 against 714,000 last year; in the United States 413,000 against 615,000 last year.

Comptroller Calls for Bank Statement.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, June 9.—The Comptroller of the Currency today issued a call for a statement of the condition of all national banks at the close of business Wednesday, June 7.